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(c) Abortion.

(d) Celibacy.

(e) Abstinence.

(f) Birth control.

(g) Certain social customs.

(h) Prolonged lactation.

(i) Hypergamy.

163 Of the positive checks war is becoming a rare phenomenon these days
164 and starvation and famine though in a mild form does affect the birth-rate in the Jammu Province and the Frontier Districts while the Kashmir Province is in this respect better situated. As regards disease this check also receives full play in Jammu Province where Plague cuts off the natural increase to a great extent and malarial fever is responsible for considerable mortality and is thus unfavourable to fertility. In Kathua and other malarial localities most of the deaths are due to the malarial fever and the surviving population is reduced to a considerably low pitch of vitality which make the sufferers an easy prey to other diseases. The venereal diseases act as another powerful positive check by causing premature death of the sufferers and leaving their children to propagate misery and further suffering.

163 As regards the preventive checks female infanticide which was much in
● 847 vogue amongst the Rajputs is considerably reduced—thanks to the measures
842 taken by His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur to stamp out this inhuman practice from his territories. Abortion is not practiced by the people as a means of checking larger number of births but is only resorted to prevent illegitimate births which the society regards as an unpardonable sin. Again celibacy and voluntary abstinence being against human nature play a very inferior part in limiting births and the Neo-Malthusian methods of "Birth Control" are very little known in the rural areas not to speak of their being put into practice by the uneducated villager who is so reckless about production of children. Confidential enquiries made regarding the sale of rubber goods from private practitioners and Chemists and Druggists who stock these articles only go to show that even in the cities the use of these methods is practiced on too small a scale to have any appreciable results. The Customs Department which was also requested to supply the figures of import of these articles regretted that separate figures were not available. The only preventive check which has proved highly effective in controlling the birth-rate in the advanced countries is almost absent in the State.

163 As regards social customs of hypergamy which forbids the marriage of a
564 girl with a man of a social group equal to or inferior to her and forces her to
953 marry a man of a superior group is completely absent in the State while practice of prolonged lactation which results in decreased conceptivity being within the knowledge of common people does act as a very mild preventive check.

163 The "postponement of marriage" especially in the case of girls acts as a
582 powerful check in restraining births but this check also has had very little play in India where marriage amongst the Hindus being a religious necessity enjoined by the Shastras is universal and the practice of marrying girls before puberty resulting in high birth-rate was universally recognised. Now by the passing of legislative enactment within the State the age of marriage has been raised to 18 for boys and 14 for girls which it is hoped while preventing much misery consequent upon deaths of child-wives and of children produced by them, will instead of acting as a check favour the growth of population by preventing deaths.

[Pr population -- Analyst]

of females than other divisions, but the existence of only 842 females per 1,000 males shows that the severity of climate is a strong factor acting adversely on the growth of the female content of the population. In the first place there is large number of male births than females and the climate being cold there are greater dangers from chills and exposures to young children and old persons of delicate constitutions. Since greater regard and preferential care of the male children secures immediate medical relief from them, the absence of such regard in the case of females exposes them to greater risks.

127. **Causes of Deficiency of Sex-ratio.**—(*1*) *Female Infanticide.*—The custom of female infanticide which has its origin in the prohibitive expense of marrying daughters in high caste Hindus used to be common in the Duggar country especially among the Rajputs which accounts for the great dearth of females in that community, there being 754 females to 1,000 males. It cannot be said with certainty that the practice has altogether vanished although there can be no denial of its being considerably on the wane. The measures taken during this decade under the inspiration of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur who has created a special trust (Dhanderi Memorial Fund) for the marriage of Rajput girls and also announced that for each female child born to a Rajput the father will get an acre of land, the custom may be said to be fast vanishing. The happy results of these measures have already begun to show themselves as at the current Census the female proportion of Rajputs has risen from 729 to 754.

(*2*) *Neglect of Female Children.*—The neglect of female children exhibits itself in two different shapes—deliberate and unconscious. If the neglect of parents is intended to bring about the death of the female infant it amounts to infanticide but if on the other hand the neglect is not deliberate but due partly to habit and partly to greater regard for the sons who are better looked after than the daughters it is unconscious neglect. The cases of deliberate neglect are getting fewer and fewer with the advancement of civilization while unconscious neglect is still in vogue. This naturally takes place more among the poor whose slender means and little education do not allow them to maintain equality between children of both sexes. As already shown above this kind of neglect will be found more in Kashmir where exposures and chills to infant daughters are not attended to so promptly as in the case of sons, slightest trouble to whom summons immediate medical assistance. In the Jammu Province also the unconscious neglect is common but the climate being milder the children can carry through the mild winter even with poor clothing and chances of exposure are not so great as in Kashmir.

(*3*) *Early Marriage.*—The practice of early marriage creating child wives and even mothers aged 11 or 12 years is responsible for greater mortality of females on account of too early conception. With the passing of the Regulation preventing marriage of girls under 14 and boys under 18 the practice may be said to have received its death blow and other conditions being favourable we should expect a better proportion of females at the next Census. The practice which was so common in the Duggar has given a serious set-back to the growth of Hindu population of the State which during the last forty years has shown a very unsatisfactory increase.

(*4*) *Deaths due to Child-births.*—It is a well-known fact that many deaths of females in India take place at the time of child-birth which is due to the unskilful midwifery and superstitions.

(*5*) *Hard treatment to Women.*—The young wives are generally subjected to hard treatment at the hands of the mother-in-law while the young widows are regarded as a curse in Hindu families.

(*6*) *Hard Work.*—Over work or work under harder conditions coupled with the usual trouble of looking after the family, cooking the meals and doing several other things under unsanitary conditions within the four walls of the house also tells upon the health of women. The *Purdah* system further affects their health adversely.

[Errata: read 'For' cf. errata sheet, p. 329, category 116 -- Analyst]